

We should pass the Strategic Production Response Act to transition supply concerns from stopgap measures to permanent production solutions.

And we should pass the PIPES Act, which I introduced, to prevent a sitting President from unilaterally attacking existing domestic energy infrastructure.

Let's not forget: America was energy independent just 2 short years ago. There is a path to regaining that independence and bringing down prices at the pump if President Biden will reverse course and flip the switch on American energy.

My constituents cannot afford \$5-plus per gallon of gas. They need relief. We need relief. America needs relief, and fast.

ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, gun violence, as we know, is plaguing our Nation. In 2022, this year, there have already been 200 mass shootings in the United States. Think about that. It is absolutely horrific.

We ask ourselves, when is enough enough?

Our constituents across the country ask us, how many more innocent people must die before any reasonable, commonsense gun reform legislation can pass and add more protection for the American public?

Let's pass the Protecting Our Kids Act, which raises the purchasing age for semiautomatic weapons from 18 to 21, a commonsense idea. Let's also deal with the subject of ghost gun purchases and background checks. Again, commonsense ideas, and cracks down on gun trafficking and straw purchases.

If the combination of the Protecting Our Kids Act is something that you might find objectionable in some instance, we have individual pieces of legislation, resources for victims of gun violence, bipartisan background checks, assault weapons ban, legislation that would also go further to provide protection in condemning the horrific shootings in Atlanta, Georgia, and dealing with hate, bigotry, and violence against Asian-American and Pacific-Islander communities.

We also have legislation that would designate June 4th National Gun Violence Awareness Day. There is legislation that deals with disarming of hate, and to try to provide extreme risk protection for Federal firearms sales to include those who are subject to extreme risk protection that we know red-flag legislation would help protect us against.

So, there are a lot of things we can do. Will we totally eliminate the threats to the public? Of course not.

But there are commonsense ideas we can do to improve and increase safety for our schools, for our churches, and for people who are just going to shop

for groceries one afternoon. These are things we can do, and we should do.

As chair of the Congressional Crime Survivors and Justice Caucus, I am advocating for resources for survivors of gun violence to cope with their trauma, whether it be in Sacramento or Fresno or anywhere else around this country.

I support the Second Amendment for responsible gun ownership. Let that be clear. But America deserves better, and I call on all House Members to join me in this effort. Let's put partisanship aside and take action to address the gun epidemic once and for all.

Madam Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 2 minutes remaining.

CELEBRATING DIA DE PORTUGAL

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today also to celebrate Dia de Portugal, which is a significant holiday for Portuguese people all over the world.

My grandparents came to the United States from the Azore Islands in the late 19th century and the turn of the 20th century, 1897 to 1904. Illiterate, non-English speaking, like immigrants past and immigrants present, coming to America to have a better life for themselves. But they never, ever left their pride of their home country, Portugal, or their sense of culture, which lives in me today.

Portugal is one of America's longest and strongest allies, as it was the first to recognize the United States as an independent Nation after the Revolutionary War.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the AMIGOS Act, introduced by our colleague and Congressman DAVID CICILLINE. It would create more American jobs and increase investment in the United States by strengthening our bonds with Portugal. As the co-chair of the Portuguese Caucus, I think it is important that we continue to build on this relationship and the trade that already exists today.

I urge the Senate to pass this bipartisan legislation and, again, we will continue to work with other colleagues of ours who are part of our Portuguese-American Caucus to continue to advocate for mutual interests, not only for Portugal but for the United States and the Portuguese-American community.

"Happy Portugal Day." "Feliz Dia de Portugal."

Let us celebrate and let us remember that America is a stronger country because of our welcoming of immigrants past and present, and this is a part of that recognition.

□ 1100

FARM BILL IMPACT SERIES NUMBER 10: RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, in preparation for reauthorizing the farm bill

in 2023, I rise today to deliver the tenth installment of my farm bill impact series where I am highlighting various aspects of the farm bill that deserve this Congress' awareness and support.

Rural Development programs exist within the farm bill because the people of rural America, many of whom work to feed, fuel, and clothe us all, must remain connected to their families, local communities, and the world to do their jobs.

Communities are made up of families, and families in rural areas need well-built affordable housing in order to thrive. USDA Rural Development's Single Family Housing Programs enable families and individuals to buy, build, or repair affordable homes located in rural America. Through these programs, qualifying individuals can finance a new home with no money down or get financial assistance to repair their wells, hookups to rural water, septic, plumbing, heating, air-conditioning, and electrical systems, insulation, and storm shelters or safe rooms.

USDA Rural Development is also committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in rural America, and every strong community needs strong local businesses. The Business and Industry Loan Guarantee program improves the economic health of rural communities by increasing access to business capital through loan guarantees, as well as enabling commercial lenders to provide affordable financing to rural businesses.

In Healy, Kansas, the Sharp Brothers Seed Company has sold native grass seeds since 1958. They needed additional working capital to build up their inventory for a Conservation Reserve Program enrollment, so they used the USDA Rural Development Business and Industry program to secure a \$5 million guaranteed loan for additional working capital. This program helped make their operation stronger than ever before, which is good for rural Kansas.

Finally, strengthening rural broadband will help ensure that rural Americans, agricultural producers included, can keep pace with an increasingly tech-driven society and international marketplace. I believe that taxpayer dollars must be spent judiciously on existing broadband programs, and the goals set by the USDA and the FCC must be realistic.

Last summer, the House Agriculture Committee advanced the Broadband Internet Connections for Rural America Act out of committee, which authorizes \$43 billion toward critical infrastructure in rural communities. I also joined several of my House Republican colleagues and introduced legislation that would leverage the ReConnect program with some of the 2018 rural broadband investments in rural areas with little or no internet access.

The ReConnect program is an example of a successful public-private partnership. Its matching grants help cover the cost of cable, implementation, and installment for broadband in rural

communities. I support whatever directly benefits the resilient people of rural America, because they are the lifeblood of this country. That is why I support the Rural Development programs within the farm bill, and why I am bringing awareness to them now to ensure that these programs remain strong in the 2023 farm bill.

I will be back to the floor soon to deliver another installment of my farm bill impact series and highlight more programs and titles within the bill that I believe Congress must understand and support to ensure that agriculture and rural America thrives in this country.

CONGRATULATING DALE MOORE ON HIS
RETIREMENT

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great Kansan, Dale Moore, and to congratulate him on his retirement from a career of dedicated service to farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers.

Dale grew up on a livestock, hay, and grain farm in Copeland, Kansas, which lies in my district, the Big First of Kansas. He went to Fort Hays State University, worked for Kansas Pork Producers Council, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, and Senator Pat Roberts.

In 2001, President Bush appointed Dale to serve as chief of staff at USDA, after which he served as legislative director for the House Agriculture Committee. Most recently, Dale has been serving as executive vice president at the American Farm Bureau Federation where his presence will be deeply missed.

Dale has tirelessly advocated for agriculture for more than 40 years, and he never forgot his southwest Kansas roots or the values he learned there: hard work, others before self, and personal responsibility.

I am grateful for Dale's leadership and service, and I offer him, his wife, Faith, and their entire family my best wishes as they begin this new adventure.

Congratulations, Dale.

COMMONSENSE GUN SAFETY
REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I pose a few questions to my friends and colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

You certainly cannot be okay with criminals continuously being able to access guns.

You can't be okay with terrorists being able to buy guns.

You can't be okay with sociopaths continuing to buy guns.

You certainly can't be okay with what has happened in Uvalde; before that, Buffalo; what just happened in Tulsa, Sandy Hook, Parkland.

So if you are not okay with that, why the inaction? Why do you continue to prevent commonsense gun safety legislation that would stop sociopaths, ter-

rorists, and criminals from obtaining weapons? Why don't you work with us to pass commonsense legislation that, in many cases, over 90 percent of the public supports?

So many gun owners that I have talked to all across north Texas, people that are on the opposite end of the political spectrum to me, tell me that they support this commonsense gun safety legislation.

You continue to show inaction to the American public. It is unacceptable. We have got to do better. We have an opportunity to get something done this time around, and it is about time. The American public is sick of seeing nothing occur every time one of these massacres takes place in our country.

Madam Speaker, I urge our Republican colleagues to work with us on passing legislation that is long overdue and that the public is asking for. We can't continue to watch this happen and do nothing. We need to take action.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS IN OUR
NATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TONY GONZALES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness for the severe mental health crisis in our country.

Two weeks ago, there was a terrible incident that occurred in Uvalde, Texas; 19 innocent children were murdered and two of their teachers alongside them. Uvalde is in my district, Texas' 23rd District.

Over a year ago, after I got elected, I visited Uvalde and I sat down with the county judge, who is a Democrat, and the mayor, who is a Republican, and the local sheriff. I sat down with them, and I said, If I could do one thing, what would that be, gentlemen? And they go: Tony, we need a mental health hospital.

They identified this crisis over a year ago. Last year, we appropriated over \$2 million toward that hospital. It is a \$25-million project, and I am working on the remaining \$23 million to get that over the finish line. This is something that that community asked for.

There is so much division here in Congress. There is so much hate and rhetoric that gets spewed. I think mental health is an area that can bring us together, that can unite us as we go forward, not only as we reflect on what happened in Uvalde, but across the country.

COVID did something to this country. We are coming out of that, and I think part of the mental health crisis that is going on in our country has to be addressed. It is heartbreaking to see what happened, to be there as the Uvalde community heals and comes to-

gether. What I will say is, this mental health crisis goes beyond those that are looking to cause harm to themselves and others.

Madam Speaker, I would argue everyone in that community needs to sit down with a mental health provider; my staff, included. Our team essentially had turned into a mini FEMA office where we were answering all kinds of different claims every day and having to hear these horrendous stories and having to hear the issues that our community was dealing with.

So this crisis is very deep and it is very sad. It is an issue that this body needs to address. It needs to start early on, not wait until when an incident occurs. We have to start very early on. This shooter, this gunman, was a troubled young man for a very long time. It was no surprise to a lot of people what occurred. If we could have got ahead of the issue instead of waiting until the problem happened, I think that is critical.

Another thing a lot of people don't realize, the day of the shooting, there was actually a young lady that had suicide ideations, and two of the local law enforcement officers had taken her to San Antonio. This was hours before the shooting.

What does that mean? That means the community of Uvalde has a very deep mental health issue that is popping up every single day. And Uvalde isn't unique. It isn't just this one small town and this one incident. We have seen it happen all over the country.

Madam Speaker, I urge this body to come together. I urge Congress to come together and use this terrible incident to unite us in finding real, tangible solutions. Part of those solutions is identifying mental health resources which we can provide directly to the communities of need.

BABY FORMULA SHORTAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, in late April and early May when parents and Republicans in Congress began to sound the alarm about the unacceptable scarcity of baby formula, I thought to myself, Well, this is just another example of the compounding effect of the bad policies of the Biden administration.

But at the time, the facts had not come to light that the crisis is yet another direct result of the mismanagement and misguided Biden Presidency; a President focused on a woke, progressive agenda, while the basic functions of government are neglected or mismanaged.

The most critical fact that has come to light is that Abbott Nutrition's Sturgis plant supplied about one-fifth, 20 percent, of all infant formula in the United States before it closed. Furthermore, the company makes the majority of the formula for infants in the